

August 2011

English/Language Arts

Vacant, English/Language Arts Curriculum Specialist

HELP WANTED at the OPI: English/Language Arts Curriculum Specialist. Visit the Montana State Job Listings for application details at:

<https://svc.mt.gov/statejobsearch/listingdetails.aspx?id=5695>

Early Grades

Terry Barclay, Early Grades Curriculum Specialist

tbarclay2@mt.gov

MtAEYC 2011 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Montana Association for the Education of Young Children (MtAEYC) in Bozeman, Montana. The conference will take place in the Strand Union Building on the campus of Montana State University Bozeman, October 14-15, 2011. This year's keynote is Donna Donnelly of Life Guides, Inc.

The theme for the conference this year is well-being and the title is ***"Montana: Creating a State of Well-Being."*** Rooms have been blocked at several hotels in Bozeman. Visit www.mtaeyc.org for more information.

Save money by registering before October 1st.

Reading Together Makes a Difference!

Hopa Mountain is teaming up with citizens from across the state to spread the word about the importance of reading and telling stories with children of all ages. At the heart of the organization's *Together* campaign is the message that all parents can do fun and simple activities—like talking, singing, and reading—*together every day* that make a big difference when it comes to healthy child development.

"There are many places to find children's books over the summer months—parents and kids can borrow and lend favorite books with family and friends, or oftentimes, find books at the local food bank," explains Maddy Kotowicz, program coordinator of Hopa Mountain's

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



StoryMakers initiative. "One of the best places to access books is the library, where summer reading and story-time activities are hosted for kids of all ages."

A summer reading program offered by Barnes and Noble invites children to read just eight books, fill out a log, and then come into any store to choose a free book of their own." We just need to keep our kids reading—every day, every evening," said Jenni Hughes of Barnes and Noble.

For more information about the *Together* campaign, please visit www.hopamountain.org or contact Maddy Kotowicz, Hopa Mountain's *StoryMakers* Program Coordinator at 406-586-2455. The *Together* campaign is made possible with generous support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

Summer Reading!

Hopa Mountain's 2011 Summer Reading Selection

Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem and America by Paul Tough

An Invitation to Talk with Paul Tough, author of *Whatever It Takes*

Wednesday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m.

After you read the book, join Hopa Mountain for a conversation with Paul Tough, author of [*Whatever It Takes*](#) on a virtual seminar on Wednesday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. MST.

Paul has written extensively about education, child development, poverty and politics, including the [post-Katrina school system in New Orleans](#) and [the achievement gap and charter schools](#). He is now at work on a new book, [*The Success Equation*](#), to be published in 2012 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

If you have questions that you would specifically like to ask Paul on September 14, please e-mail them in advance to info@hopamountain.org. On that day at 10:00 a.m. MST, dial (570) 310-0170. The participant access code is 189808.

Library-Information Literacy

Colet Bartow, Library-Information Literacy Curriculum Specialist
cbartow@mt.gov

Statewide Database News from the Montana State Library (MSL)

There will be a new suite of statewide databases in August that will be available to all Montana libraries enrolled in the [Montana Library Directory](#). The group of databases will include some renewals of existing products and some new products. There will also be a "discovery system" product that will allow your patrons to search across several silos of content at once, including the database suite. Implementation for both the databases and the discovery tool will begin within the next couple of weeks.

Important details for you

- The new database suite will include these [EBSCO](#) databases: the Elite Mainfile package, the professional nursing database CINAHL with Full Text, the Auto Repair Reference Center and the Small Engine Repair Reference Center.
- The new suite will also include the [Tutor.com](#) Learning Suite which includes the K-12 and College Center and Adult Education and Career Center.
- [EBSCO's Discovery Service](#) (EDS) will provide a central searching capability. Patrons will be able to search the following resources in a single search: statewide suite of databases, Montana Memory Project, Montana Shared Catalog and WorldCat.org.
- The Gale databases that comprised InfoTrac (PowerSearch) will not be renewed. The EBSCO Elite Mainfile package will replace InfoTrac as the "primary suite." The "primary suite" consists of several individual databases that cover a range of areas of interest to patrons of public, K-12, academic and special libraries.
 - Access to InfoTrac will continue through August 31, when that contract expires.
- Access information, URLs for each database and support contact information will all be added to your library's [Directory](#) profile pages, accessible via your library's [Directory](#) password.
 - Visit the [Directory](#) Edith Path to request your password by clicking on *HELP! I Can't Remember My Password*.
- All libraries, including school libraries, enrolled in the [Directory](#) will be automatically enrolled in the new databases.

Training in the new databases will be available in a wide variety of ways. EBSCO and Tutor.com trainers will present at the MSL Fall Workshop (September 23-24) in Bozeman and at the MEA-MFT conference in Missoula (October 21-22). There will be webinars and recorded sessions available to you from Ebsco and Tutor.com and links to these will be included on your Directory pages. To begin looking over things now, go to <http://support.ebsco.com/> or <http://www.tutor.com/libraries>.

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



As MSL staff begin working with EBSCO and Tutor.com to implement, market and provide training in these new statewide resources, information will be sent on the Wired listserv, SLMD-MT listserv, and MSL Facebook page.

Finally, a huge thank you to the State Library's [Network Advisory Council](#) (NAC) and to those on the NAC's ad-hoc Discovery System RFP Committee. These good people put in a great deal of time, thought and study to select these resources and make recommendations to the MSL Commission. They represented all types of libraries carefully, working together to find resources that attempt to meet the needs of all Montana citizens.

Sarah McHugh
Director of Statewide Library Resources
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800
E-mail: samchugh@mt.gov
Phone: 406-444-9816
Fax: 406-444-0266

Links to Articles from AASL Hotlinks:

AASL Awards Season Opens with More than \$50,000 in Opportunities

AASL's prestigious awards program will offer 10 awards totaling more than \$50,000 in 2012. The awards recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in categories that include research, collaboration, leadership and innovation. AASL personal members are required to fill out applications using AASL's online awards database. The deadline for submitting applications or nominations for most AASL awards and grants is February 1, 2012. For the NSLPY award, the deadline is January 2, 2012. All applications will close at 4:30 p.m. CST on the day of the deadline.

Laura Siemens Foundation Offers Awards for Student Research Projects

The Siemens Competition seeks to promote excellence by encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects. It fosters intensive research that improves students' understanding of the value of scientific study and informs their consideration of future careers in these disciplines. High school students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply. The maximum award is \$100,000. The deadline is October 3, 2011.

New Report Reveals Social Impact of Networking Sites

A five-part report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project takes a critical look into the social impact of widespread use of social networking sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, MySpace, and Twitter. Researchers found that the number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008 and the age of users has increased. The report, which



Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



can be downloaded or read online, also includes the survey questions and information about the authors' methodology.

eSchool Readers Recommend School Library Upgrades in 10 Best Ideas for School Reform

In its newsletter, eSchool News recently asked readers: "If you could recommend only one idea for school reform, what would it be, and why?" The Web site published the best 10 ideas, which include the suggestion to: "upgrade or place in every school a library media center that functions as a Learning Commons, and staff it with a teacher librarian or library media specialist who can take learning into the 21st century."

Other Resources

Great Unit/Lesson/Teaching Ideas from *Teachers First*: <http://www.teachersfirst.com/>

Visit the [Montana Teacher-Librarian Wiki](#) for additional resources and ideas.

Science

Kristen Crawford, Science Curriculum Specialist
kcrawford@mt.gov

The Conceptual Framework for the New Science Education Standards is Finally Released!

Many of you saw the draft version of the Conceptual Framework last summer. Now, after going through an extensive editing process, this incredible document is finished and available to download for free. If you aren't familiar with it, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* was developed by a committee of experts in education and science who were appointed by the National Research Council. The framework identifies the key scientific practices, concepts and ideas that all students should learn by the time they complete high school. It is intended as a guide for those who develop science education standards, those who design curricula and assessments, and others who work in K-12 science education. More information about the development of the document can be found at the [National Academies](#) site. To download the framework for free, visit the [National Academies Press](#) site. This document will also serve as a foundational document for the writing of the *Next Generation Science Standards*.



Please mark your calendars now for the first annual Montana STEM Forum. This forum will be held October 4-5, 2011, at the Red Lion Hotel (2301 Colonial Drive) in Helena. This year's theme, "A Vision of STEM in the State of Montana," will focus on what STEM looks like in classrooms across our state. STEM partnerships will be spotlighted and an update on the statewide STEM initiative will be shared. Dr. Stephen Pruitt will be our featured guest speaker. Dr. Pruitt is the Vice President for Content, Research and Development at Achieve, Inc. and is leading the

Content Standards Informer

Curriculum and Instruction Unit



development of the Next Generation Science Standards (<http://www.achieve.org/staff-stephen-l-pruitt-phd>).

There is no fee to attend this conference. Please contact Kristen Crawford by September 23, 2011, at kcrawford@mt.gov, in order to register.

Conference activities will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4 and end at noon on Wednesday, October 5. OPI renewal units will also be available.

A block of rooms is available at the Red Lion Hotel under "OPI STEM." Please call (406) 443-2100 by September 3 to reserve your room.

You do **not** want to miss this conference!